

WANTED: A WIZARD ON SHIP PROBLEMS

President Harding Would Utilize His
Wisdom to Save American Merchant
Marine From Ruin.

BY N. O. MESSENGER.

President Harding makes no bones about admitting that he does not know all there is to know about the merchant marine question and the problem now confronting the government in the disposal of the white elephant on its hands—the mercantile fleet. The President feels that if the genius exists who can figure out a solution at once, he would like to meet him at once. Meantime, however, the President intends to study the situation and has called for an extensive report which he expects to have at hand this week, and which he will study before communicating his views and opinions to Congress.

The merchant marine question has been a source of contention in Congress, in the press and on the hustings throughout recurring years, sometimes more insistent than others and never a permanent settlement has been found yet. The government has tried many experiments, granting mail subsidies, applying a preferential tariff, and in the late war applying the principle of government ownership and operation and outright.

There is opposition to subsidy, there is dead-set determination, it is believed, on the part of a majority in Congress not to have government ownership and operation, and in the meantime the industry sags.

Cable dispatches report Germany as almost frantically busy building a merchant fleet, to be in readiness for world trade when the world's business gets well again. German wagers, granting shipping regulations will place United States vessels at a disadvantage in rivalry for business.

Unless the genius, whose wisdom the President would invoke hurriedly with a plan to help the merchant marine of this country, it is a gone, is the belief expressed by wise men in Congress.

President Harding sees in the willingness of Chile and Peru to get together and discuss their differences another proof of the growing popularity of the "conference idea" for world usage. The arms conference proposes to call anything meeting some time in the not distant future for consideration of the laws of war, which may broaden its agenda to make it another world conference.

In contrast to these developments is the announcement from Paris that France and Great Britain will not sit down at the council board to discuss the proposed defensive pact, but will revert to the old form of diplomacy, negotiations through ambassadors.

The old world will be old world and comes reluctantly to changes.

Vindication of the wisdom of President Harding in choosing two senators for the American delegation to the arms conference was shown last Friday in the Senate. A resolution offered by Senator Walsh of Montana called on the President to communicate to the Senate what steps had been taken to carry out certain expressed policies on the Shantung question.

Thereupon, two members of the conference, Senators Lodge and Underwood, arose in their seats and told the Senate exactly the state of affairs as to Shantung.

"I wish to say," said Senator Underwood, "that under the administration of Mr. Wilson and under the administration of President Harding our country has occupied a position in reference to this matter that cannot be controverted. We have contended from the beginning that this territory of a right was the territory of China, and have offered our good offices on all occasions to try to secure the return of that territory to China.

"The attitude of the American delegation at the conference now being held in Washington has been exactly in accord with the representations made by the government of President Wilson and the government of President Harding. The question has not been directly before the conference, and manifestly it cannot come before the conference until it is settled between the governments of China and Japan, because seven of the powers sitting in the conference are signatory to the treaty of Versailles, and, of course, cannot deny the conclusions reached in that treaty with reference to this territory until an agreement is reached between China and Japan.

Senator Lodge, the republican leader of the Senate, endorsed the democratic leader's statement, adding that the only method of bringing about a settlement of the Shantung question is that adopted, and he had strong hopes that this question, which has been long discussed between China and Japan, would be settled in a way satisfactory to the people of the United States.

Senator Underwood made the additional observation that "any delegation or governmental instrumentality which tried right now to throw this question into a plenary session, and force somebody's hand, would be throwing a monkey wrench into a piece of machinery, which might affect the world very seriously."

When the foreign debt funding bill comes up for consideration in the

LARGE TASK HAS BEEN CUT OUT FOR DAUGHERTY AND HIS STAFF

BY HERBERT F. CORN.

THE time of reckoning for the war profiteer is at hand. "Prosecution" of the war by Attorney General Daugherty is about to begin. It is a gigantic task, and the Attorney General expects the job to consume the next three years, during which the Department of Justice will be one of the busiest branches of the government.

Already extensive preparations are under way for delving into thousands of war-time contracts and acting on hundreds of claims against the government growing out of the war. Thorough investigation of these claims is promised by the department, and the inquiries into many are already under way.

And along with the running down of those who profited at the expense of the government during the war is the campaign to seek out and punish those who are profiteering today at the expense of the consuming public and thus inflicting unwarranted hardships and interfering with the processes of economic readjustment.

It is partly because of this great volume of work facing the Attorney General in the federal courts of the country that he was prompted to appeal to Congress to authorize the appointment of new federal judges to help clear up the crowded dockets.

Not the least among the worries of the Attorney General is the problem of prosecutions under the Volstead act. Although most of the load of investigation of suspected violations of the dry act has been lifted from the shoulders of the federal attorneys throughout the country by the prohibition enforcement bureau, the task of prosecution is in itself a gigantic one.

Events of the next few months are expected to determine whether the administration will be forced to announce a definite and more stringent policy to govern dealing with the ultra radicals, whose pernicious propaganda has been steadily increasing.

Warning that the movement launched by the third international at Moscow to gain control of the trade and industrial unions throughout the world is meeting with marked success in so far as it relates to syndicalist unions in the United States has been sounded by the Attorney General.

Waring that the movement of a strict policy with the stamping out of communism in the United States as its object, the administration, it is known, is opposed to severe measures in dealing with these radicals unless they so far abuse American privileges of free speech that their presence becomes an absolute menace.

Candidates for Congress are impressed with the necessity of working out their own salvation in large degree, but they insist that the national organization has a large stake in their individual game, which is true, because it is of importance to the party as a whole that the largest possible majority be maintained in the House, for moral effect on the next presidential campaign, and for the same reason the minority wants to weaken or overthrow the majority.

Comment is free about this stage of the campaign on the alleged "scare" of the republicans over their outlook. Don't take too much stock in that talk and don't place any bets on it yet.

The politicians find it salutary and advisable to circulate alarmist stories from time to time. It increases morale and helps collections. None of the leaders deny the fact that there are troubles in the situation in Congress which throw an influence over party prospects, but the vexations are not admitted to be vital. They will have to be dealt with and there is no lack of courage for the undertaking and no real despair of successfully overcoming them.

Democratic politicians realize that they have weaknesses of their own, one of them being that the party has not yet reorganized after the crushing defeat of 1920. Neither can the democrats lay claim to maintaining a solid front. They have their factions, mainly traceable to presidential aspirations and to the friction between radical and conservative forces within the party.

The principal democratic need is said to be a strong, dominating personality to assume the national leadership and create a nucleus around which the scattered units of the party can reunite.

And the hour when such a figure appears, he will find rivals springing up all around him, contesting his claim to leadership.

ASSIGNED TO PHILIPPINES.

Maj. Gen. Omar Bundy has been relieved from his present duties as commanding general of the 7th Corps Area, Fort Crook, Neb., and assigned to command of the Philippines division, it was announced today at the War Department.

Gen. Bundy will sail for the Philippines on March 1 and will report for duty immediately upon his arrival there to Maj. Gen. William M. Wright, newly assigned commanding general of the Philippines department.



HARRIS-EWING
ATTORNEY GENERAL DAUGHERTY.

Heretofore Mr. Daugherty has pursued a policy of dealing with each case individually, although it was known in many instances that their activities were in unison.

Already Mr. Daugherty has found it necessary to ask Congress to give him more power to restrain these ultra radicals, many of whom, it has been discovered by agents of the government, are agents of the third international at Moscow. Two important recommendations by the Attorney General to Congress show how investigations of the departments have awakened him to the perils in the efforts of such malcontents if they are permitted to spread their propaganda in America unmolested. They are:

Legislation making criminal an attempt to commit a crime against the United States.

Legislation making it a criminal offense to send through the mails letters threatening injury to life or property.

Enactment of a measure along the lines suggested in the first recommendation would put a powerful weapon in the hands of the government, a weapon the use of which it is believed will become necessary if communistic propaganda continues to make progress in the United States.

Safeguarding is the watchword of the department. In keeping with this, agents of the department, both special and local, are keeping tab on the activities of scores of suspected radicals. Unless actual crime is committed, the only weapon of the government now is to deport these aliens found spreading communistic propaganda. Here the problem is complicated by discovery that many of the leaders of this movement now is to deport these aliens who are known to have taken from Moscow as to their activities in the United States.

The President is known to have shown a personal interest in the problem of dealing with the ultra radicals, and investigations are said to be now under way which will result in the framing of some definite policy for dealing with them unless propaganda ceases. Some flagrant instances of propaganda in behalf of radicals convicted or facing trial in many states, seeking to set them up as martyrs before the nation and the world, have come to the attention of the Attorney General.

The disposition heretofore has been to deal as leniently with the individual cases as possible, and the Department of Justice has attempted to take up each case individually, in fear that some injustice might result from a general policy for dealing with the cases; but, it is pointed out, if abuses of this leniency continue, only one course will be left open, and this is the application of stern measures.

Communist parties in this country, Mr. Daugherty has learned, have united to more effectively carry on propaganda. He has also been convinced that their policy is to endeavor to gain control of the labor organizations through the control of the executive committee or other governing bodies. The Attorney General has also noted a noticeable effort on the part of various so-called defense societies to propagate and carry on agitation in behalf of the ultra radicals in the United States.

States, in many instances, have enacted laws defining and punishing criminal anarchy which reach American citizens as well as aliens. Mr. Daugherty has pointed out, whereas the government is still bound to follow a law which limits prosecutions in this respect to aliens alone, American citizens, fired by foreign propagandists, in some cases have been guilty of spreading communistic propaganda as the foreign born. Figures obtained by the Department of Justice show that 427 foreign propagandists of known radical tendencies arrived in the United States last year. The movements of these 427 have been carefully watched and the Department of Justice intimately informed of their activities.

These propagandists seem to have been well supplied with money, and the Attorney General has been informed that the amount of money spent in the United States by them in exploiting Americans and creating interest for movements and schemes entirely foreign to the interests of the American people has been considerable, although it cannot accurately be estimated.

Pardons for persons convicted under the espionage and other acts whose application took effect during the war are still a problem for the Attorney General. In dealing with them, as with the communists, he thus far is known to have taken up each case individually. Some still are to be acted upon.

In this connection the release of Eugene Debs, socialist leader, is known to be an experiment which the administration is carefully watching. While Debs is declared not to have pledged himself to learn whether there was a complete demand for it or against it, it is known that he is aware of the course which the administration expects him to follow. His future behavior and that of other prisoners released last Christmas, in the decision of the administration if it eventually does become a matter of the government on some definite policy toward dealing with communists.

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"Tariff and the American valuation plan have become probably the two most engaging and important subjects in our economic problems that are affecting the business of the entire country," John E. Edgerton, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, explained last evening.

"American valuation now looms as the storm center of any tariff bill that is passed. It has been approved and disapproved by many members of Congress in their debates, and numerous organizations have sought to obtain referendums of their members to learn whether there was a complete demand for it or against it. Most of these referendums have produced indefinite results or confusing results, with the arguments for and against the American valuation plan about balancing."

"Tariff," according to Mr. Edgerton, "has been worrying the exporters and the importers of the country for more than a year. The manufacturers are in a quandary because of the uncertainties, and this dilemma is reflected all the way through business. The doubt and perplexity are causing uneasiness which should be relieved in order to allow business to proceed on its road to recovery as it now is doing very promisingly."

"I am an optimist. I believe that we long ago passed the peak of our industrial and business troubles, thanks to the sanity and sobriety of both employers and employees. The country has done its part by applying itself definitely, determinedly, to the work. It is now the duty of the leg-

To carry forward as a national policy that which will place the farmer on this plane of high standard of living, balanced with what he could have by expenditure of the same energy if he quit the farm and went to live and work in the city, will require besides a labor return an interest return which will make farm business a sane investment. The best statistics to date show that the farm business as a whole paid less than 3 1/2 per cent over a period of years.

The Department of Agriculture has just completed a survey, based on an analysis of the census returns, which shows that the rented farms owned by non-resident owners pay the least.

Secretary Wallace invited to join in the conference people representing every shade of thought regarding agricultural policy. He knows that there are gathered here a whole flock of people, each with his own pet scheme or hobby, and he has asked to sit on the inside and make up various proposals. He did this so that every well-thought-out proposal can be considered by a group of able men and all that is good considered for the stability of the industry.

For example, crop insurance is going to be discussed at length in the conference. Theodore H. Price has written an open letter to Secretary Wallace, urging that the government should establish a crop insurance bureau as "the true solution." It can be pretty safely said right now that governmental crop insurance hasn't a ghost of a chance of being established as a result of the gathering here. The agricultural economists, however, recognize that the principle of crop insurance is good and feasible. In fact, crops are being insured by independent companies. They have made investigations and now have agents out getting such business.

The proposal for government crop insurance will throw open the whole question of the farmer's economic position. (Continued on Third Page.)

TARIFF ACTION NOW TO BE ASKED HERE

Thousands of Manufacturers Expected to
Assemble in City Next Week—Favor
American Valuation Plan.

TWENTY-FIVE thousand manufacturers of the United States, or a goodly portion of that number, are expected to assemble in this city one week from tomorrow, to hold the biggest convention of the new year. They are coming to demand immediate action by Congress on the tariff. Their slogan is "Tariff action at once, and the American valuation plan."

Just how many of the 25,000 invitations sent to manufacturers all over the country by the National Association of Manufacturers will be accepted by attendance in person is not known, but the association, made up of 6,000 manufacturing companies, has completed a referendum of its members, and the ballots received showed that 77.7 per cent of those voting are in favor of the American valuation plan.

The sessions of the convention will be held at the New Willard. The primary object will be to have the 25,000 manufacturers of the United States unite in a demand for a tariff bill—a tariff bill with American valuation incorporated, if possible, but a tariff bill of some kind, by all means, and now.

The convention will not seek participation in the framing of any kind of a bill. It insists that it is non-partisan, non-political, and will not consider any particular tariff bill, or schedules, or items of schedules. It emphasizes that its sole purpose is to urge on Congress the necessity for the enactment of tariff legislation of some sort which will remove the existing conditions of doubt and uncertainty and thereby stabilize business and restore the country to a normal prosperity.

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Permanent Program for Agriculture Chief Purpose of Conference Here

BY WILL F. KENNEDY.

STABILIZATION of farm-crop prices, determination of a national policy regarding agriculture as the great basic industry and its relation to all other industries, so that the food supply of the country will be based upon well co-ordinated economic principles—that is the big idea behind the conference of more than 300 picked leaders from all parts of the country gathering here tomorrow.

There seems to have been a pretty general misconception regarding this great conference on agriculture, called by Secretary Henry C. Wallace at the direction of President Harding. It is not to consider measures to tide over the present emergency, nor for the consideration of legislation to give temporary relief. While many men of many minds—some known radical theorists—have been invited to join in the conference, so that the united minds of those most deeply interested in the future welfare of the agricultural industry may consider all sorts of proposals and winnow out what is really best and helpful, frank conclusions and amazing programs will not result.

The inner council, co-operating with Secretary Wallace on preparations for this conference, know pretty well the mind of the people throughout the country and the economics of the present situation and the principles that must be followed for safe and sane agriculture and for national protection through an assured domestic food supply. While every group and every line of thought will be given an opportunity to present its views, it can safely be predicted that the mind of the conference will be focused principally upon three reforms, or improvements, which the conference will in all likelihood decide to work for:

Better knowledge of foreign markets.

More knowledge regarding home production and consumption.

More economic delivery of farm products to consumers.

This knowledge would be a basis for real crop adjustment, tending to stabilize prices where there has been very uneconomic price fluctuation. In this way the farm producer, representing the great basic industry of the country, could be assured of a

FARMING GREATEST OF INDUSTRIES

The magnitude of interests involved in the agricultural conference opening here tomorrow, with more than 300 leaders from all parts of the country invited by Secretary Henry C. Wallace by direction of President Harding, is shown by the following statistics:

Agriculture throughout the world is a basic industry with respect to food, feed and raw materials. Approximately seventeen hundred million people are dependent upon agriculture for food, of which one hundred and eight million live in the United States. The number of people employed in agriculture is greater than in any other industry. The value of agricultural land, live stock and equipment is greater than the capital investment of any other industry and is equivalent to many other industries combined.

In the United States one-third of the entire population live on farms, and about sixteen million men, are employed on farms. The value of farm lands, buildings, live stock and other equipment on farms in the United States is in excess of eighty billion dollars. The annual value of agricultural production in the United States ranges from sixteen billion to twenty-four billion dollars gross, or from ten to sixteen billion dollars net, depending on the amount of duplication involved in feeding crops to live stock.

reasonable and dependable return for his labors and return on his invested capital, just the same as in any business enterprise.

It appears that many have come here for the conference with an entirely erroneous idea of its purpose. Most of those that are gathered in the hotels look upon this conference as an effort to build up remedies for the existing emergency. The farm bureau program announced is practically all concerned with legislation for the emergency—with what has already been done or is being done.

President Harding and Secretary Wallace are looking far into the future—to stabilize agriculture and make it commercially profitable for all time. They see that the agricultural bloc is getting results on emergency legislation; they see that there is no need to bring leaders from every state in the Union for a big conference on such matters. Naturally, the factory as to hold the people on the farm who know how to produce with economic efficiency the food this nation needs, it will be shown that modern houses with modern conveniences will have to be provided; the farmer's family must have automobiles; good roads, not only to get his crops to market, but to get his family to the theater and concerts and women's meetings and shopping trips; and the farmer must be placed in such a position that he can give his children a college education.

There is where the particular interest of farm women in this conference comes in, and why so many

Fisheries Bureau Contributes To Rehabilitation of Europe

The United States bureau of fisheries is participating in the rehabilitation of Europe. During the long years of recent warfare and of desperate post-war conditions, the inland waters of central Europe were practically stripped of edible fish. Every fish, game or otherwise, that would take or be bait, or could be snared or trapped in any manner, legal or illegal, went into the frying pan, irrespective of size. Except in some of the larger and deeper lakes and rivers, there remained not even a nucleus of edible aquatic life.

To await the natural increase of such a meager stock would take too long, while fish cultural stations lack material with which to propagate. Therefore appeals for assistance have come to the bureau of fisheries here from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France, particularly the eastern part, and the bureau, as a matter of international courtesy, has responded to the best of its ability.

During the past week a consignment of eggs of the American lake trout (salvelinus christivomer) has gone to Switzerland. This fish grows to a large size in extensive waters like the great lakes, and has thrived and become a favorite in the deep lakes of the Alps.

Yesterday a cablegram arrived from Holland asking for eggs of the Chinook salmon, a Pacific genus. In spite of the fact that the Rhine, which empties through Holland, has been a commercial and industrial river for ages, up until the war enough care was exercised so that the Atlantic salmon could ascend the river to the foothills of the Alps. They have been almost exterminated, however, and the Dutch authorities are now desirous of trying out the larger and more valuable Pacific salmon.

Atlantic Coast Trade.

Heavy Shipments Between Canada and United States.